

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00172 051747Z

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0172

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN
REPRESENTATIVES OF APRIL 4, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE APRIL 4, 1977 INFORMAL SESSION
OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE
CANADIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET
REPS TARASOV AND SHUSTOV, POLISH REP DABROWA AND GDR REP
OESER. MILITARY ADVISERS ALSO PARTICIPATED.

2. IN THE SESSION, EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE
FIRST TIME INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE WESTERN
PROPOSALS ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES, INCLUDING STABILIZING MEASURES,
ALTHOUGH IN AN INCONCLUSIVE WAY, AND ASKED FOR FURTHER DETAILS
OF THESE WESTERN PROPOSALS. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES ANSWERED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00172 051747Z

SOME WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA POSED IN THE PREVIOUS
SESSION AND ASKED SOME FURTHER QUESTIONS BOUT WESTERN
FIGURES. THEY ASSERTED THAT THE TREND OF WESTERN QUESTIONS
IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS CONCERNING ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE PERSONNEL
THE EAST HAD EXCLUDED FROM ITS COUNT IMPLIED THAT THE WEST MIGHT
SEEK REVISION OF THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED EARLIER IN THE
TALKS THAT BORDER GUARDS AND FORCES OF INTERNAL SECURITY

WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE COUNT AND THAT IF THE WEST PRESSED SUCH A POINT, THE EAST WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW ITS POSITION ON EXCLUSION FROM THE COUNT OF RESERVISTS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FORCES. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES ALSO ATTEMPTED TO REFUTE EARLIER WESTERN STATEMENTS DEMONSTRATING AN INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN POSITIONS THE EAST HAD PREVIOUSLY TAKEN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR PRESENT DATA. THEY REMINDED WESTERN REPS THAT WEST HAD NOT YET AGREED TO EASTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS.

3. IN THEIR GENERAL STATEMENT, WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR. THEY ANSWERED EASTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN DATA RAISED IN THE MARCH 29 SESSION AND ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS. THEY ONCE MORE DREW ATTENTION TO INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN POSITIONS EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAD TAKEN EARLIER AND PRESENT EASTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES.

4. POLISH REP ADDRESSED THE TOPIC OF ASSOCIATED MEASURES. HE SAID A CONCRETE SOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE WOULD DEPEND ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A CLEAR PROSPECT OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE KEY PROBLEMS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ON SCOPE AND METHOD OF REDUCTIONS OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS. HE ASKED WHY WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR STABILIZING MEASURES APPLIED TO GROUND FORCES ONLY, WHILE FAILING TO DEAL WITH AIR FORCES. HE SAID THE EAST WAS PREPARED TO STUDY THE WESTERN POSITION ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES WITH A VIEW OF PRESENTING THE EASTERN REACTION TO THIS POSITION AT A LATER TIME, BUT THAT IT WAS IN THE INTERIM DESIRABLE THAT WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES EXPLAIN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00172 051747Z

THEIR POSITION IN A MORE DETAILED WAY.

5. CANADIAN REP SAID THAT A BASIC PROBLEM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS EASTERN INSISTENCE ON TREATING ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS THOUGH THEY WERE IDENTICAL IN MILITARY SIZE AND STRENGTH, GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION, AND AS REGARDS THE CONSEQUENCES FOR EACH OF REDUCING AND LIMITING THEIR FORCES. A FORCE REDUCTION IMPOSING LIMITATIONS WOULD ENHANCE THE EAST'S PRESENTLY EXISTING GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES. THE CONTRACTUALIZED MILITARY ADVANTAGE FOR THE EAST WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST'S REDUCTION APPROACH WOULD BE INCREASED BY THE DIRECT PROXIMITY TO THE REDUCTION AREA OF LARGE SOVIET FORCES WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO NUMERICAL LIMITATION. THE WESTERN APPROACH TOOK ACCOUNT OF THESE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS IN AN EQUITABLE WAY.

6. TARASOV REPLIED TO SOME WESTERN QUESTIONS OF MARCH 29 ON WARSAW PACT FORCES. HE DECLINED TO ANSWER THE WESTERN QUESTION AS TO WHETHER SOME ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE PERSONNEL

HAD BEEN EXCLUDED BY THE EAST FROM ITS FIGURES WERE SUBORDINATE TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (COMMENT: AS IS THE CASE WITH THE GDR BORDER GUARDS) AND MADE THE POINT NOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE THAT IF WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES WERE PLACING IN QUESTION THE EXCLUSION OF BORDER GUARDS AND FORCES FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, THE EAST WOULD RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO EXCLUSION OF RESERVISTS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE ARMED FORCES. TARASOV ASKED THREE FURTHER QUESTIONS ON WESTERN DATA HAVING MAINLY TO DO WITH ALLOCATION OF FORCES BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR.

7. US REP ANSWERED SOME EASTERN QUESTIONS FROM MARCH 29 SESSION AND GAVE PARTIAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TARASOV HAD JUST RAISED.

8. THE GDR REP ATTEMPTED TO REFUTE WESTERN POINTS IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS DEMONSTRATING INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN EARLIER EASTERN ACTIONS REFLECTING RECOGNITION OF EASTERN NUMERICAL SUPER-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MBFR V 00172 051747Z

ORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER AND THEIR PRESENT CLAIMS OF NEAR PARITY IN MANPOWER. HE CLAIMED THAT THE EASTERN FEBRUARY 19, 1976 PROPOSAL BASED ON THE EQUAL PERCENTAGE APPROACH SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME BE UNDERSTOOD AS EVIDENCE OF AN EASTERN VIEW AT THE TIME THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE THAT THERE WAS MANPOWER PARITY IN THE AREA. GDR REP MADE ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS FOR THE EASTERN VIEW THAT IF THE WEST WANTED TO CONTEST WEASTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES, THE BURDEN OF PROOF WAS ON THE WEST TO PROVE THE INACCURACY OF EASTERN FIGURES.

9. FRG REP TOOK UP EARLIER EASTERN COMMENTS ON THE INCONSISTENCY THEME AND SHOWED HOW THE EAST HAD NOT CHALLENGED WESTERN FIGURES TABLED AT THE OUTSET OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HOW EARLIER EASTERN EFFORTS TO DEDUCT WARSAW PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL PERFORMING FUNCTIONS ALLEGEDLY PERFORMED BY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FORCES IN THE WEST WERE INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT EASTERN DATA CLAIMS. END SUMMARY.

FULL TEXT OF REPORT SENT VIA AIRGRAM. RESOR

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